PLAN INTERNATIONAL

REQUEST FOR QUOTATION

Main Facts Table	
RFQ reference	**RFQ FY24 – 184 Research Girls' Rights**
RFQ launch date	9th April 2024
Contract Manager	Claire Mathellie-Marcano, Human Rights & Advocacy Officer
Deadline for submission of offers	**17th April 2024, 23.59 BST**

Submission of offers to *procurement@plan-international.org*

Please include the RFQ reference number above in all correspondence

Background Information

1.1. Plan International

Founded in 1937, Plan International is an independent development and humanitarian organisation with no religious, political, or governmental affiliations. Our vision is a just world that advances children's rights and equality for girls. We engage people and partners to; empower children, young people and communities to make vital changes that tackle the root causes of discrimination against girls, exclusion and vulnerability; drive change in practice and policy at local, national and global levels through our reach, experience and knowledge of the realities children face; work with children and communities to prepare for and respond to crises and to overcome adversity; support the safe and successful progression of children from birth to adulthood.

To fulfil the promise of the 2030 Global Goals, our 5-year Global Strategy is designed to deliver significant change for girls and boys, putting a special emphasis on gender equality. We see clear links between fulfilling children's rights, achieving gender equality and ending child poverty. Every girl and boy has the right to be healthy, educated, protected, valued, and respected in their own community and beyond. We support these rights from when children are born to when they reach adulthood. We work to ensure that all children and adolescent in all their diversity know their rights, and have the skills, knowledge, and confidence to fulfil them. This approach inspires and empowers children and communities to create long-lasting change. Girls have the power to change the world. Our ambition is to work beside them and together we act so 200 million girls learn, lead, decide and thrive. Our global advocacy work not only focuses on international policy but also ensures national governments can meaningfully implement and uphold laws that advance children's rights and gender equality at community level.

1.2. Background to this Consultancy Assignment

Girls' Rights are Human Rights is an in-depth study into the status of girls in international law, and it adds onto the previous research on the same topic. In the previous version of the research, it analyses existing references to girls and their rights in more than 1,300 international policy documents, covering a period of 87 years from 1930 to 2017. In this new version, we will analyse the policy development from 2017 until present day to shed light on gaps and trends related to girls' rights in key planks of human rights law – prompting the question: does the international human rights framework adequately protect girls from discrimination? Can we claim that advocacy efforts carried-out by Plan international and partners to advance girls' rights in the past decade have been successful?

The study will focus on policy developments from 2017 to 2024, identifying areas where girls' rights ae now recognised and integrated into international standards as well as gaps where Plan International and like-minded organizations should focus to continue this trend of protecting and enhancing the rights of girls.

2. Focus & Purpose

2.1. Objectives of the Research

Girls continue to be the largest excluded group in the world. They face discrimination and abuse simply for being young and female. At all stages of their early lives up to adulthood, girls face distinct disadvantages that are directly related to this double discrimination.

Progress on achieving girls' rights has stalled over the past decade, if not regressed thanks to anti-rights movements. Previous research from Plan International reveals the extent to which international law overlooks girls' rights, effectively rendering girls invisible. Rarely are girls mentioned as a specific demographic in international law and where they are, there is a failure to fully reflect the barriers that they face.

Too often girls are falling between the dominant agendas of women's and children's rights. Gender-neutral and age-neutral approaches are shaping international law-making, shifting attention away from girls.

Plan International recognises that millions of girls are disproportionately disadvantaged in education, health, work and family life – particularly in the world's poorest countries. When factors like poverty, ethnicity or disability intersect and where gender stereotyping and unequal power relations prevail, girls' disadvantage is magnified.

This research is part of our broader global campaign to achieve equality for all girls by:

- **Effectively measure the advancement of girls' rights in international language and policies**. By assessing progress in girls rights language in international policy by comparing the current status of girls' rights to the previous baseline analysed in our "girls rights are human rights" report (2019).
- **Understand pushback in girls' rights.** In the past decade, although progress has been made, we have also seen an increase on the pushback on rights, especially when it comes to gender and diversity. The research will help analyse strategies and language used by these anti-rights movements and help promote a healthy progression, promotion and protection of girls' rights.
- **Demonstrate the benefits of the Girls' Rights Platform and contributing to fundraising efforts for the platform**. The research will be conducted using our Girls Rights Platform, the biggest human rights policy database in the world. As the platform has been recently updated, it will help to reinvigorate its usage by UN and diplomatic staff, as well as other CSOs working on age, gender and diversity within UN spaces and demonstrating its benefits for knowledge management and generation of new progressive language. Finally, as the Girls Rights Platform existence is spotlighted, we will use the outcome of the research to obtain sustainable funding for the platform.

2.2. Research Questions

The research piece will aim to answer the following questions:

- To effectively measure the advancement of girls' rights in international language and policies, how can we claim progress has been made? How many policy documents developed at UN level since 2019 include language that is age, gender and diversity sensitive and promotes and protects the specific rights of girls?
- To better understand the pushback in girls' rights, what are the gaps and shortfalls in UN-developed policy language when trying to address girls' rights in UN spaces? Where is the biggest pushback on rights being held (in terms of both terminology and language)?
- To demonstrate the benefits of the Girls' Rights Platform and contributing to fundraising efforts for the platform, how much of a use do diplomats, and other CSO and UN agents make of the

platform? What would happen if the platform ceased to exist? How do they use the platform for policy development? What is the added value when strategizing for UN negotiations?

2.3. Users of the Research

The main users of the research will be:

- **Plan advocacy and influencing staff** to allow us to continue doing the work we do, justified by our work in the past few years. This is a key entry point for Plan staff to be part of crucial discussions around age, gender and diversity in multilateral and other spaces. It will also help in fundraising for the sustainability of the GRP.
- **Diplomats and UN agencies**. By seeing the positive effect of the past few years in advancing girls rights, identifying gaps and potential strategies to counter anti-rights movements, they will use the research to continue improving and developing age, gender and diversity specific language that is also progressive.
- **Research staff within Plan international** but also academics charged with monitoring policy development at UN level - this research piece will also help other research projects with literature review and informing evidence of different pieces of MERL.
- **Other CSO actors**: As the key advancements and pushbacks are identified, collaboration with other like-minded actors will be easier in the promotion and protection of girls' rights.
- **Donors (fundraising**): the research will serve as an introduction to the work that Plan has been doing in policy development that is age, gender and diversity inclusive in the past few years, achievements at the international level and the work that we still must carry out to counterbalance the pushback. It will therefore be useful to highlight the needs to continue supporting our work in fundraising activities.
- Communication development: by identifying the progress made and the impact it has on the lives of girls, Plan can use the outcome of the report to highlight why we should all continue to be a ***determined optimist*** amongst challenging times.

3. Research Design & Methodology

3.1. Research Design

The envisaged design of the research will be based on a document review using the Girls Rights Platform (GRP) database. The baseline information of the comparative research piece will be based on the previous “Girls Rights are Human Rights” report and will explore how international policy has evolved in the past years to support this claim. The desk research will be complemented by user-experience interviews, targeting diplomats directly working in these UN spaces and the UN community as well as Academia involved in the monitoring of UN-based policy making.

3.2. Methods for Data Collection and Analysis

Qualitative data collection and review: desk research (literature review) using the Girls Rights Platform (GRP) and its AI

Review of content referring to girls' rights in the GRP that is considered as progressive and protective of girls’ rights. As the GRP has been recently updated, the only gaps in access to documentation would be in the latest CSW and HRC reports. The gap can be filled by human screening documentation and policy documents rather than using the AI of the platform.

Sampling would include documentation from 2018 to 2024.

Qualitative data collection: Structured interviews with policy makers
A set of defined questions will be used to guide conversations with international policy makers on the improvement of protection of girls' rights in the UN spaces and key challenges ahead.

Qualitative data collection: expert consultations with academics and policy makers
Discussions with academics and policy makers engaged in the promotion and protection of girls' rights as well as monitoring policy making at international and UN-levels.

Quantitative data collection: survey questionnaires circulated among like-minded organisations
A set of questions will be circulated among like-minded organisations working on policy making at international and UN-levels to assess their impressions on the progress made towards the promotion and protection of girls' rights, the pushback felt, and potential gaps. The result of these surveys can be used to guide qualitative data collection efforts.

Reviews and case studies
Use of case studies and examples to extrapolate the collective efforts taken to advance girls' rights in policy making at international levels and how it can have an impact at local level. A potential case study can be on the recently recognised right to a clean and healthy environment and the implications for girls' rights. We would also appreciate specific information on sub-issues and cross-thematic intersectional approaches between girls rights and climate, care and support, displacement and

3.3. Ethics and Child Protection

Plan International is committed to ensuring that the rights of those participating in data collection or analysis are respected and protected, in accordance with Ethical MERL Framework and our Child and Youth Safeguarding Policy. All applicants should include details in their proposal on how they will ensure ethics and child protection in the data collection process. Specifically, the consultant(s) shall explain how appropriate, safe, non-discriminatory participation of all stakeholders will be ensured and how special attention will be paid to the needs of children and other vulnerable groups. The consultant(s) shall also explain how confidentiality and anonymity of participants will be guaranteed.

Consultations, survey research and interviews will be conducted upon obtaining ethical approval from concerned parties. Ethical approval will be in line with *Plan International's Ethics Review Team's guidelines*.

4. Key Deliverables

Deliverable	Format	Length	Due	Detail
Design Methodology for data collection and analysis	Word	2 pages (max)	2 weeks after contract signing	Structure to be agreed in initial scope and design phase
Develop Data Collection Plan/Schedule	Word	1-2 pages	2 weeks after contract signing	Supplementary KII data collection
Obtain Ethics Approval and	Word	1 page	2 weeks after contract signing	Compiled consent form for KIIs

Consent Forms where required				
Draft Report	Word	30 pages (max, excluding annexes)	6 weeks after contract signing	
Final Report (including Executive Summary)	Word	40pages (max, excluding annexes)	8 weeks after the draft report	
Other Communication Products for Dissemination	PowerPoint	10 slides (max)	10 weeks after the draft evaluation report	Structure to be agreed following inception report

4.1. Timeline and indicative number of days

This consultancy is expected to take place from April to June. Please find below a table of activities with indicative number of days:

5.

Phase	Activity	# Days	Responsible	Involved
Design	Design Methodology for data collection and analysis	2	Human Rights and Advocacy officer and consultant	Reference group review
	Develop Data Collection Plan/Schedule	2	Consultant	N/A
	Train intern (already working with Plan International) to support with data collection	1	Consultant	N/A
Implement	Data collection (KIIs)	3	Consultant	N/A
	Data entry	6		
	Data analysis	8	Consultant	N/A
Report / Communications products	Develop draft Report / Communications products.	7	Consultant	N/A
	Review and include comments on Report / Communications products.	4	Consultant	Reference Group review
	Final report with executive summary, summary PowerPoint slide deck	2	Consultant	Reference Group
	Total number of days	35		

1. Selection Criteria for Consultants

Bidders will be evaluated against the following criteria:

1. Understanding of UN processes and international policy making. Familiarity with the Girls Rights platform and text negotiation an asset.
2. Demonstrated research experience. Experience in delivering similar products an asset.
3. Proficiency in qualitative methods of data collection.
4. Proven experience with data analysis.
5. Experience with/knowledge of the NGO sector is desirable.
6. Fluency in English; working proficiency in French and/or Spanish is desirable

2. How to Apply

Applicants should submit an application package by 23.59 17th April 2024 via email to procurement@plan-international.org, with the subject line "**RFQ FY24-184**" and which must include:

- Detailed response to the RFQ, including proposed scope, methodology and proposed timelines
- Detailed budget, including daily fee rates, expenses, etc.
- CVs of consultant(s)
- Three example(s) of previous work
- Signed Annex A – Non-Staff Code of Conduct
- Annex B - Supplier Questionnaire (please complete all fields that are relevant to your entity type e.g., self-employed, company etc.)

3. Evaluation of offers

Shortlisted suppliers may be invited to discuss their proposals in more detail at Plan's discretion. Plan International, at its sole discretion, will select the successful RFQ.
Plan international shall be free to:

- Accept the whole, or part only, of any submission
- Accept none of the proposals
- Republish this Request for Quotations

Plan International reserves the right to keep confidential the circumstances that have been considered for the selection of the offers.
Women-owned businesses and companies actively engaged or advancing gender equality and women empowerment in the workplace are especially encouraged to apply.

Plan International may award multiple contracts and all contracts will be non-exclusive.

4. Contract Payment terms

Please note that, if successful, Plan International's standard terms of payment are **30 days** after the end of the month of receipt of invoice, or after acceptance of the Goods/Services/Works, if later.

5. Clarifications

The onus is on the invited companies to ensure that its offer is complete and meets Plan International's requirements. Failure to comply may lead to the offer being rejected. Please therefore ensure that you read this document carefully and answer fully all questions asked.

If you have any queries in relation to your submission, or to any requirements of this Request for Quotation, please email:
procurement@plan-international.org

Thank you for your proposal.